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CIA/SAVA / WIND 721223



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

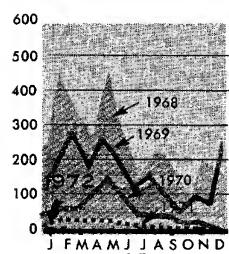
Week Ending December 23, 1972

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

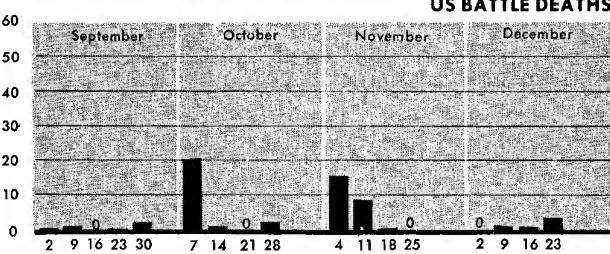
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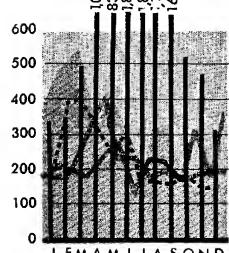
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1972
Weekly average for each monthSEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1972
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS rose to 4 from the one reported the previous week.

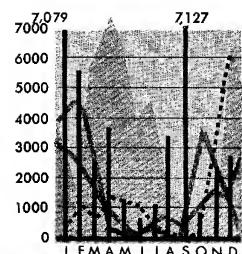


SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 264 for the week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.

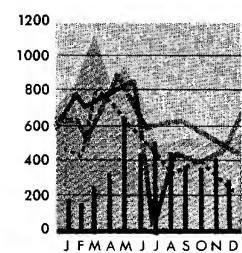


INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

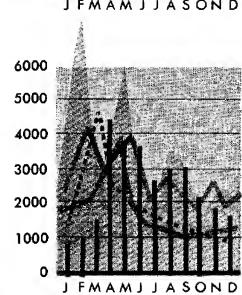
include three regular and three special purpose groups totaling 1,600 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 24,700-27,700.



ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS decreased slightly to 273 from last week's 287.

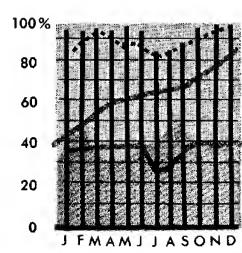


ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION jumped to 2,220 from the 1,628 of last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed in ground combat by GVN forces remained at 100%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, enemy-initiated activity remained at a low level during the past week, and in most areas was limited to small-scale attacks by fire and harassment of outposts and lines of communication. Despite the interruption in the negotiations, the Communists are continuing their preparations for the post cease-fire period. Reports from various sources indicate that the North Vietnamese are still planning to disperse significant numbers of their troops and integrate them with VC local forces so that they can remain unobtrusively in South Vietnam after a cease-fire agreement.

There was also little activity in Cambodia during the week, except around the city of Kompong Thom, some 75 miles north of Phnom Penh on Route 6. Here, an enemy force believed to consist of both Khmer Communist and NVA troops has pressed in closer to the city and has forced the closure of the city's airport. Efforts of the Cambodian Army to relieve the besieged garrison have thus far been unsuccessful. Unless the FANK can mount a more effective counter-operation, it would appear that enemy forces can overrun the town if they choose to do so. Elsewhere in the country, a joint FANK/ARVN task force has once more re-opened Route 2 between Takeo and the South Vietnamese border, encountering little resistance along the way.

In northern Laos, there were several small and inconclusive engagements during the week northeast of Long Tieng. At Bouam Long, north of the Plaine des Jarres, NVA forces continued to maneuver into positions from which to attack that enclave, while the government irregulars at Bouam Long worked hard at improving their defenses. In the central panhandle of south Laos, enemy forces still hold a strategic bridge which they captured late last week, but friendly troops operating around Muong Phalane have encountered little resistance. Farther to the south, friendly irregulars are still holding the town of Saravane in spite of heavy enemy counterattacks, and other friendly forces have successfully reopened the road from Pakse to Paksong, on the Bolovens Plateau.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the week, an estimated 1,600 NVA personnel were newly detected in the infiltration pipeline. The estimated number of infiltrators detected moving toward South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 24,700 - 27,700. In addition, there is tenuous evidence that an NVA divisional entity may have entered the pipeline and may be headed for northern Military Region 1 of South Vietnam. At this point, the identity of the division involved is unclear, but it may be a newly formed division drawn from one of North Vietnam's training units.

Logistics movements to the south continue at a high level in North Vietnam. More than 2,400 tons of materiel, including over 630 tons of ordnance, were shipped southward out of Vinh, thereby raising the total shipments passing through there to about 7,400 tons so far in December. Additionally, we have evidence that at least twenty-one 122mm and eighteen 130mm field pieces may now be moving through the North Vietnamese panhandle on the way to NVA units in Quang Tri Province.

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